



Dear Families,

Happy New Year and welcome back to the Spring Term. I hope that you all had a fantastic and relaxing break.

It has been wonderful to see all our young people back in school this week and the term has started well. We are all looking forward to the many adventures the New Year will bring.

Pantomime

Key stages 2 and 3 went to see Mother Goose at the arts theatre in Cambridge this morning. We all had a fabulous time and enjoyed the show, we'd like to thank the Arts theatre for providing us tickets and for their warm welcome and support.



Circus Starr Wednesday 10th January 2024

We are very fortunate to have been given a number of complimentary tickets for Circus Starr.

Please contact the school office for your free tickets stating how many tickets you would like (maximum 4 per family) and whether you would like to attend the 4.45pm or 7.00pm performance. Tickets are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Support for Families Struggling Financially

Have your circumstances changed recently? Have you checked if your child might be eligible for Free School Meals

Your child will get free school meals if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit - but no element of Working Tax Credit - and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC)) that does not exceed £16,190
- If you are supported under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit during the four week period immediately after your employment finishes or after you start to work less hours per week

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400 (as from 1 April 2018)

Families who are currently paying for school meals will save around £450 a year for each primary school child if they are entitled to free school meals.

When your child is registered for free school meals, if your child is in Reception to Year 11, the school will also receive Pupil Premium, which is extra money to support children from families on lower incomes. If your child is in receipt of [universal infant free school meals](#) (where your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2), we still recommend you apply if you believe you may be eligible for free school meals, because the protection will continue beyond Year 2 and the school will receive Pupil Premium funding to support your child's education.

You can apply for free school meals online at:

https://cambridgeshire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Apply_for_Education_Welfare_Benefits

Ask the office or your class teacher if you need help making an online application.

Castle School Shop

We are collecting donations of good quality clothing, bric-a-brac, children's toys, CD's, DVD's, and games console games.

Term Dates 2024

Spring Term 2024

Training Day	3 January*
Term Starts	4 January
Half Term	19-23 February
Term Ends	28 March

Summer Term 2024

Term Starts	15 April
Bank Holiday	6 May
Half Term	27-31 May
Training Day	5 July*
Training Day	22 July*
Term Ends	22 July

*School will be closed to pupils on Training Days

Charlotte

Charlotte Whysall

Headteacher